Issues revised and consolidated Rules *re* Grant of lands for Tea, Coffee, Cinchona, Rubber and Cardamom Cultivation.

READ—

Rule 11 of Appendix E to Land Revenue Rules of 1890 laying down that full assessment at Rs. 1-8-0 per acre shall be paid for lands sold for coffee cultivation from and after the 6th year, if the purchaser wishes to have it on permanent tenure.

(2) Government Order No. R. 3474-84—L. R. 224-06-1, dated 28th September 1906, and Government Order No. R. 1680-91—L. R. 307-11-4, dated 24th September 1912, issuing rules for the grant of lands for rubber cultivation.

(3) Government Order No. R. 4693-703—L. R. 330-11-4, dated the 18th November 1916 and No. R. 10222-32—L. R. 301-17-5, dated the 8th April 1918, directing among other things that in future no fresh lands should be granted for coffee cultivation on permanent tenure.

(4) Government Order No. R. 2780-2—Ft. 221-17-4, dated 26th August 1919, directing among other things that the period of tenure of lands given for cardamom cultivation should not be extended beyond 20 years.

(5) Government Order No. 2621-32—A. & E. 247-19-3, dated 9th September 1920, issuing revised rules for the grant of lands for tea cultivation.

(6) Government Order No. R. 55-105—L. R. 255-22, dated 5th October 1927, issuing revised consolidated rules for the disposal of lands on ordinary darkhasts.

(7) Letter No. C. 2326-26-27, dated the 22nd October 1927, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, furnishing his proposals for the standardisation of the rules for the grant of lands for the cultivation of coffee, tea, etc.

(8) Decision arrived at during the officers' meeting of February 1928.

(9) Letter No. 169 dated the 7th August 1928, from the Secretary, Board of Agriculture, on the subject.

ORDER No. R. 1102-14—L. R. 484-26-8, DATED 8TH AUGUST 1928.

In Government Order No. R. 55-105—L. R. 255-22, dated the 5th October 1927, consolidated rules were issued for the disposal of lands on ordinary darkhasts, and the Revenue Commissioner was requested to submit proposals for standardising rules governing the grant of lands for the cultivation of special crops, such as coffee, tea, rubber, cardamom, etc.

2. The Revenue Commissioner, in his letter dated the 22nd October 1927 read above, has suggested the following modifications in the rules for the grant of lands for tea cultivation issued with Government Order No. 2621-32—A. & E. 247-19-3, dated the 9th September 1920 read above:—

(1) The upset price of Rs. 10 per acre provided in the rules should be regarded as the minimum, discretion being given to charge a higher price whenever conditions require it.

(2) Discretion may be allowed to Revenue Officers to dispose of lands by auction even when there is a single applicant.

(3) As regards payment of price, a period of 5 years need not be allowed in every case.

(4) The powers of Deputy Commissioners to grant lands under these rules may be withdrawn and those of the Revenue Commissioner may be limited to grants of land not exceeding 200 acres in extent, all other cases being referred to Government.

3. Government are pleased to approve of the above recommendations (1), (2) and (3). As regards (4), Government consider that the disposal of lands by public auction for tea cultivation up to 50 acres may remain with Deputy Commissioners. The Revenue Commissioner may sanction the grant of lands up to 100 acres, either by auction or for an upset price equivalent to the actual market value of the land. All other cases, particularly where the application is considered to be of a speculative nature, should be referred to Government.

4. *Lands for coffee cultivation.*—As regards rules relating to the grant of lands for coffee cultivation, the Revenue Commissioner has submitted the following recommendations:—

(1) That the power to sanction coffee lands for upset price up to a limit of 100 acres may be delegated to the Revenue Commissioner.

(2) That as far as possible, these lands should be sold by public auction.

5. While approving of these proposals, Government consider that the following further amendments to the coffee rules are necessary and that the present opportunity should be taken to carry them out:—

(*a*) In Government Order No. R. 4693-703—L. R. 330-11-4, dated the 18th November 1916 and No. R. 10228-32—L. R. 301-17-5, dated the 8th April 1918, the practice of giving lands for coffee cultivation on permanent tenure was ordered to be discontinued. This decision will be embodied in the revised rules.

(*b*) With regard to the powers to be exercised by the several Revenue authorities in regard to the disposal of lands, Government direct that the instructions contained in para 3 above *re* disposal of tea lands, be followed in the case of darkhasts for coffee lands also.

(*c*) The acreage rate of assessment on coffee lands granted on temporary tenure having been raised to Rs. 1-4-0, this rate should be substituted for Re. 1 fixed in the present rules.

6. *Lands for cultivation of rubber.*—Modifications similar to the above will be made in the rules relating to the grant of land for rubber cultivation. But the acreage rate of assessment now in force (Rs. 2 and 1-8-0, respectively, for lands granted prior to or after 24th September 1912) will remain unaffected.

7. *Lands for cardamom cultivation.*—According to Government Order No. R. 2870-2—Ft. 221-17-4, dated the 26th August 1919, in the case of lands granted for cardamom cultivation the period of survey guarantee should not be extended beyond 20 years. Government are of opinion that there need not be a special period for cardamom lands. They are therefore pleased to direct that the usual survey guarantee period of 30 years be applied to cardamom lands also.

8. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to satisfy himself that an accurate record is kept showing the estates granted on permanent tenure. If any of these estates are relinquished or are forfeited and sold for arrears of revenue, they should be omitted from the list and their disposal will be on temporary tenure only.

9. The rules as now revised are appended to this order and will issue under a separate notification.

N. MADHAVA RAO,
Chief Secretary to Government.